

Name: ThomasMcDonald

Age: 68

Years lived in Townsend: 41 years

Family: my wife Christine and I have been for married 45 years, 3 children, 7 grandchildren

Education: Newark High School, Honorable Discharge from U.S.A.F. in 1973 A.A.S. Delaware Tech in Computer Engineering, Certification as Control System Technician

Occupation or former occupation if retired: Instrumentation Technician Consultant –retired

Leadership experience in job, clubs, organizations, church, etc., and years previously served in town government and committee leadership positions if applicable:

I have served in several positions for the Town during the 80's and 90's:

- *Water Commissioner –appointed
- *Councilman –appointed once and elected several times
- * Board of Adjustment –volunteered
- * Zoning Committee –volunteered
- *Currently serving on Planning Commission.

What are the three most important issues in Townsend and how would you propose handling them?

1. I'm concerned with the rapid growth of Townsend without an infrastructure available to handle the increased traffic. I believe more development will occur west side of town. We need the County and State to develop an additional traffic corridor on the west side of the state, possibly Rt. 15. As residents are aware of the hazard due to the increased traffic on Main St. and Railroad Ave. Increased traffic will also incur on Rt. 71 corridor due to the Lifehouse Church and two other developments with entrances on that road.
2. An issue that causes concern is the finances of the town seems to be based on continuous growth fees. I feel that at some point growth will stagnate and the Town's funds from fees will dwindle. I would like the funds from Town to be invested under the auspices of a professional financial advisor. At some point we will need to start repairs and maintenance on the Town streets, sidewalks, and other properties.

3. I believe that there must be a better way to handle the issue of street lights. Paying fees for each light, pole, maintenance, electric, etc. seems to be an ongoing money pit for the Town residents. I would like to examine the feasibility and possibility of the Town to start buying our own poles, lights, contract a local electrical company to maintain our street lights. This might entail a long period of time to change possession from Delmarva to the Town's ownership.

9. What qualities, characteristics and/or experience do you have that will help the town if elected or re-elected? I have several advantages which would support my serving on the Town Council. First, I'm retired therefore, I have the time to dedicate to the position. Second, my previous experience. I was appointed once to the Town Council, after that, I was re-elected several times to the Council. Third, I have served as the head of the Board of Adjustment and on the Zoning Committee. These positions gave me experience in dealing with legalities, developers, residents and other elected and appointed officials. My experience as the Water Commissioner gave me an insight to parameters of dealing with contractors, grants, and contracts. I set on Council and pressed to acquire grants for a new water tower, adopt zoning ordinances and building codes, and helped to introduce annexation of Townsend Village. Much of what is needed by Council is the commonsense approach to resolving current problems and anticipating future ones. My career as an Instrumentation Technician consultant, has provided me with a background of delving into complex problems and finding the best solution to resolve them. I do not know what the solutions to our current or future problems are, but I want to be involved in finding them.